

June 2013

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

During the summer months, it is crucial for children to continue to read daily in order for them to sustain their academic skills. Studies have shown that students who read during the summer can actually improve their reading skills. It is important that students are encouraged to read and understand books that are suitable to their level of comprehension. However, students entering Kindergarten and grade one may not be able to read the selections independently. You are encouraged to read the selections to, or with, your child. Parents should be aware that books labeled at higher levels often contain mature themes and content. Through the use of reading assessments teachers are able to identify an Instructional Reading Level and an Independent reading Level. The Independent Reading level is the level at which your child knows the vocabulary and can practice rereading for fluency and comprehension checks. This reading list should be used in the following way:

- Locate the grade in which your child will be entering in August.
- Choose one title from the required grade level list that most closely matches your child's Independent reading Level as indicated on the June report card.
- Choose two additional titles from the leveled list that matches your child's Independent reading level. Please note that the titles are categorized by various genres.

Feel free to choose books from any genre to stretch or match your child's interest. To assist you in choosing a book for your child, a brief summary of each book is included in the listing. The reading list, activity sheet for grades 3 & 4, and the K-4 parent Sign-Off Sheet can all be found at:

Paper copies of the reading lists, activity sheet and Parent Sign-Off Sheet are available in the main office at each of the schools.

The coming school year will begin with activities and discussions related to the theme of the required summer reading book. In addition to the required reading, students are asked to read additional books from a choice list and to complete an activity (except in grades Kindergarten through grade two). The goal of the summer reading program is to foster a love of reading and to maintain skills over the summer vacation. When children struggle with reading, modifications and supports should be used to help ensure success. The Shrewsbury Public Library is a tremendous resource and can provide a great deal of assistance in making book choices. The Public Library also provides a number of wonderful programs for children.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

Mary Beth Banios

The Shrewsbury Public Schools, in partnership with the community, will provide students with the skills and knowledge for the 21st century, an appreciation of our democratic tradition, and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.